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AFGHANISTAN DEMOGRAPHIC HEALTH SURVEY

SEPTEMBER 2013 – SEPTEMBER 2016

\$5.4 MILLION

OVERVIEW

In 2015, Afghanistan launched its first-ever nationwide effort to gather comprehensive demographic and health information of its citizens. The Demographic and Health Survey will provide rigorous data on fertility levels, marriage rates, awareness and use of family planning methods, breastfeeding practices, nutritional status of mothers and young children, childhood and maternal health and mortality, as well as information on social indicators such as domestic violence.

The study will be conducted across all 34 provinces of the country. Data collected will provide the Afghan government, development partners, policymakers, and non-governmental organizations with high-quality provincial and national-level data for use by researchers, policy makers, and the general public. Results will be compiled according to international standards and, consequently, will be easily comparable with results collected in other countries. The data will help the Afghan government develop modern health and social programs.

The United States Agency for International Development is providing funding to ICF International, which implements Demographic Health Surveys throughout the globe to undertake the survey. USAID is also providing direct guidance and technical support to the Central Statistics Office and the Ministry of Public Health, the two Afghan Government agencies leading the survey.

ACTIVITIES

- **Build Afghanistan's commitment to rigorous, evidence-based decision making:** Support efforts across the Afghan Government to strengthen its ability to conduct nationally-representative surveys. Increase analysis standards and use of hard, confirmable data to improve policies and programs.
- **Help the Afghan Government conduct Afghanistan's future scientific studies:** Develop methodology, adapt survey tools, train field staff, ensure data quality, collect and analyze data, and disseminate results.
- **Facilitate effective dissemination of findings:** Help the Afghan Government use the findings to assess the performance of non-governmental organizations contracted to deliver health services, support the development of Afghanistan's Health National Strategic Plan with hard data, and help officials identify key health priorities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Steering Committee and technical committees established with representatives from Afghan ministries, United Nations (UN) agencies, the Afghan Government and USAID.
- Methodology developed for provincial-level data collection and disaggregation from over 25,600 households in 34 provinces; training provided to about 370 surveyors, supervisors, and monitors to conduct field research.
- All survey tools were field tested in Kabul and the surrounding districts to ensure reliability and validity prior to their implemented in 34 provinces.
- Questionnaires and training manuals translated into the two national languages: Pashto and Dari. Survey began in June 2015, and preliminary findings will be available by March 2016.
- The Key Indicator Report (KIR) was launched in May 2016. The report includes national estimates about twenty indicators.

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